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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Greece

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SUBJECT

MA (Mde Popular Self-Defense)

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- Defense (Maziki Iaiki Aftoamyna). It is called Wide Self-Defense in order to dislinguish it from the Narrow Self-Defense (Steni Aftoemyna). The word "aftomym" was coined by Nicholas Zachariades, General Secretary of the KKE and does not appear in the ordinary Greek vocabulary.
- 2. The Mid was the first militant organization created by the KNE after the Varking Agreement of February 1945. The first mention of a plan to create such an organization was made in a letter of Kostas Karageorges to the KKE Palitizuro immediately after the unsuccessful revolution of December 1944. In this letter Karageorges stressed that the KKE must hide arms and keep trusted members under cover for later use in forming armed groups in the cities and mountains. These groups would be staffed by the best fighting members of the EAM (National Liberation Front). The members would be placed first in MA, and later the best fighters would be sent to the Narrow Self-Defende of to the Rebel Army led by Markos Vaphiades.
- 3. There very two reasons for the establishment of the MLA:
  - a. To gather together all the KKE sympathizers who were not actually Party markers, and former EIAS (National Popular Liberation Army) members.
  - b. To have an organized force to back up the KKE in its attempts to justify any logal or illegal action of EAM, which would be opposed by extreme paralogal rightist bands formed by the opposing political parties.
- 4. In a passah before the Twelfth Plenum of the KKE Central Committee in June 1945, Recharindes stressed the "defensive" aspects of MIA. He stated that the constitution would be used to protect the people from the "murderous" rightist hands which were ravaging the country, and to resist a fascist coup detat.
- The Twelfth Plenum confirmed the words of Zachariades, and in its decision spoke clearly for the establishment of the MIA by underlining especially that:
  - a. Who murderous terrorist activity of the right necessitates the immediate

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Deganization of an MIA to cope with it. Men, women, children, the whole democratic Greece will break the mailed fist of the fascist arrangement each time it is lifted against them.

- b. The struggles of the working people and of all the democratic world in means of strikes, meetings, demonstrations, closing of shops, funerals the victims of fascism, etc., are the chief democratic obligations, and order to face the concrete murderous acts of the opposition.
- \* The people's political strikes are today compulsory as a decisive puter weapon to face more general and important fascist terrorist corpressions.
- d. The democratic world as a whole must be ready to defend its life and oppose by all means every attempted fascist coup d'etat. The people
- 6. The MA was organized as follows:
  - a. The lowest division was the square or decemvirate (cell or block), which neted in a block of a district and had ten members.
  - b. Two, three or more squares or decemvirates formed a section which was re-
  - c. Four five or more sections comprised a sector, which acted in an area at large as that of a KKE "achtida". Each "achtida" had parallel with a sector. The MIA Sector Committee had to be composed of KKE members.
  - d. The city MIA instructed an entire city such as Athens, Piraeus and Schorika. The divisions of MIA in Athens were instructed directly by the Athens MIA and indirectly by the "achtidas" and, on a lower level, by the KOB's (Communist Organization of the Base)1.
- 7. There also existed a parallel organization in EPON (United Panhellenic Youth Organization) which collaborated with the MIA sectors in order to coordinate their activities. The role of the EPON Self-Defense was as important as
- 8. The perposes of the MLA were the following:
  - a. Portecting the leftists (KKE, EAM, and EPON) of a district from attacks to "introsponsibles of the right", and assaulting the rightists by counter-stacks and beatings.
  - b. Garding the committees which went to protest to various authorities.
  - c. Garding the groups which collected money, posted propaganda bills, and used loudspeakers for broadcasting propaganda.
  - d. Coarring the groups which sold leftist newspapers such as Rizospastis, Elisfiheri Ellada, Kaisariani, Antistasi, etc.
  - e. (warding the various offices of the KRE, EAM, and EPON.
  - f. Ognizing arbitrary actions (beatings, murders) against persons of the
  - g. Choosing the best fighting members of KKE to re-enforce the Narrow Self-
- 9. Although the "achtidas" and the MiA sectors were practically identical, the MiA also had additional activities. The First MiA Sector worked closely with the First "Achtida" (workers), but it had the additional job of guarding strikers and fighting strike-breakers.

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- 10. The First MA Sector was divided, like the First "Achtida", into trades and crafts. Each trade had its own group within the MIA. The large factories, where hundreds and thousands worked, also had their own MIA organized within the establishment.
- 11. The Elementh and Twelfth "Achtidas", which were instructed by the First "Achtidan", did not form their own sector. They placed their best fighting members, which were very few, in sections of the First MIA Sector or in the sector of the area in which they were living. The activity of the First "Achtida" and the First MIA Sector was directed by the labor Center of Athens.

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Comment. This provides an interesting contrast with the Narrow Sell'-Defense, which was directed by the KKE Politburo rather than by local Communist organizations.

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